



BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Corbett Wants to Increase Funding For Disabled Adults

Governor Corbett said in his budget address: "I'd like to share with you my experience on a visit I made recently to Vision for Equality, in Philadelphia. I met with families who had adult sons and daughters with severe

intellectual disabilities. Because of their conditions they face challenging lives. And it became even more challenging because they "aged-out" of the services the state provides for children. They were put on a waiting list - a waiting list that delays their access to the help that would allow them to work, to live at home, to enjoy a full measure of life's experiences.

**My City, My Place
Creating One
Community
March 5, 2013
The Philadelphia
Regional Conference
on Developmental
Disabilities
Celebrating the Past:
Creating the Future
May 10, 2013**

But these families would not let these disabilities and the waiting list stand in the way of their dreams. That waiting list is a powerful metaphor for what has gone wrong in our society. We need to act now and we must not turn our backs on all who are out there currently on the waiting list. That is why I am counting on the general assembly to join with me to make certain we pass this next round of funding for

expanded services for people with intellectual disabilities." In November Governor Corbett came to Vision for Equality to hear from individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and their families. Corbett heard from three families who were fortunate enough to receive services due to the 2012/13 initiative, but he also met with many more families who do not have services and have waited for many years for

help. The event was very successful, in addition to the Governor former DPW Secretary Alexander, Dr. Author Evans and Jean Taylor from DBHIDS, Kathy Sykes and Larry Pace from IDS, former Rep. George Kenny, Rep. Taylor, Rep. Murt and Rep. Adolph attended the event. It is now up to us in the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism community to make sure Governor Corbett keeps his promise.

Hiring Disabled is Good Business

Tom Ridge 12/04/12

When I was governor, I had the privilege of leading trade missions to explore international opportunities for Pennsylvania companies. I learned that successful American companies all have something in common:

a motivated workforce empowered to deliver results. That's why I'm disappointed that some corporate executives have hastily prejudged a proposed federal rule change that would help make the workforce more inclusive. I proudly chair the National Organization on Disability, which promotes the full participation of America's 54 million people with disabilities in all aspects of life - most notably,

employment. Nearly eight in ten working-age Americans with disabilities are unemployed. Twenty-two years after the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed, this statistic is simply unacceptable. The U.S. Labor Department has given official notice to update the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of disability by federal agencies and companies



Calendar and Repeatables

It is always best to call before going to a meeting to be sure there have been no changes since the printing of Family Forum.

To include an event in Family Forum, please email familyforum@visionforequality.org

Mondays

- 1st Mon 5 pm - 7 pm** Speaking for Ourselves, Networks, 123 S. Broad St.
Contact: Debbie Robinson, 215-3136392.
- 1st Mon 10:30 am - 12 pm** Quality Progressions Advisory Meeting, 1339 Chestnut Street, Suite 700.
Contact: Susan Fellows, 267-765-2000.
- 2nd Mon 6 pm - 7:30pm** West Philadelphia Parent Support Group at The Free Library of Philadelphia, 56th & Haverford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19138. Contact: Doreatha Davis, 215-303-3501.
- 2nd Mon 6 pm - 8 pm** BOAZ & RUTH Advocacy Family Support Group, 6000 Rising Sun Avenue.
Contact: Crystal El, 215-342-4212.

Tuesdays

- 2nd Tues 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** Roxborough Parent Support Group, Andorra Library, 705 Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128. Contact: Carol Costello, 215-487-1240.
- 2nd Tues 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** NW Family Support Group at Northwestern Human Services, 27 E. Mt. Airy Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19119. Contact: Verna Edwards, 215-248-4415.

Wednesdays

- Every Wed 1 pm - 4 pm** Free legal advice and representation on general legal problems, Liberty Resources.
Contact: Spencer Rand, 215-204-1800. By appointment only.
- 1st Wed 7 pm** Consumer/Family Advisory Committee, Partnership for Community Supports. Contact: Mary MacAvoy, 267-350-4513. Please call to confirm.
- 2nd Wed 10 am - 12 pm** Abriendo Caminos a los Latinos con Familias Excepcionales (Opening Paths for Latinos with Exceptional Families) COMHAR, 3825 Whitaker Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19124. Contact: Ana Pacheco, 215-744-5014.
- 3rd Wed 6 pm - 8 pm** PersonLink Consumer/Family Advisory Committee, 260 S. Broad Street, 18th floor.
Call: 267-295-3800. Meets September through June.
- 3rd Wed 10 am - 12 pm** PIN Bilingual Support Group, 445 W. Luray St., (APM),
Contact: Becky Espanol, 267-507-3869
- 4th Wed 1 pm - 2 pm** South Philadelphia West Parent Support Group, Programs Employing People (PEP), 1200 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19146.
Contact: Bernadette Lennon, 215-339-0797.

(contd. page 2.) doing business with the federal government. The change would require federal contractors and subcontractors to set a goal of hiring enough people with disabilities to account for 7 percent of their workforces. The National Organization on Disability hosted a forum on the proposed changes that included Labor Department officials and executives from companies such as Prudential, Toys "R"

Us, and Pitney Bowes. The language in the rule change isn't perfect, but instead of knee-jerk reactions, we should have a constructive dialogue about how to ensure that the change is good for people with disabilities and good for business. In partnering with businesses such as Lowe's and Toys "R" Us to develop workplace disability programs, we've found that businesses that make hiring people with

disabilities a priority benefit in many ways. A diverse workforce that includes people with disabilities makes good business sense. Just as we have seen consumers embrace companies with effective energy, environmental, and corporate-citizenship programs, we believe they will reward companies that hire people with disabilities as well. Such companies deserve our thanks and

our business. People with disabilities constitute America's largest minority. They are a vibrant part of our families, neighborhoods, and communities. Let's live up to our national promise to give them equal opportunity in the workplace as well.

Tom Ridge is the chairman of the National Organization on Disability and served as Governor of Pennsylvania. For more information, see www.nod.org. To read the complete article go to: <http://articles.philly.com/americans-with-disabilities-act-rule-change-workforce>

Thursdays

3rd Thurs 10 am

Consortium Family Advisory Committee, 5825 Market Street. Contact: Darlene Gonzalez (215) 472-1707 X 1162 Meets September through June.

3rd Thurs 6 pm - 8 pm

PIN Parent Educational Support Group, Bethana, 1212 Wood Street. Contact: Cynthia Garrett, 267-507-3871

4th Thurs 10 pm - 12pm

Community Support Group Central/South Central Philadelphia, Vision for Equality, The Cast Iron Building 718 Arch Street 6N, Philadelphia. Contact: Sharon Duckett, 215-755-4536

Fridays

Every Fri 1 pm - 3 pm

Training on Accessible Public Transportation, Liberty Resources. For appointment, call Fran 215-634-2000 x255.

1st Fri 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

First Friday Gotta Dance at PDDC, 2350 W. Westmoreland St. For more information call: 215-229-4550

3rd Fri 1 pm - 3 pm

Consumer Connection, Liberty Resources, Contact: Shawn Tucker, 215-634-2000 x245

4th Fri 10 am - 12 pm

There's A Place for Us Parent Support Group, Warren E. Smith Center, 1315 Windrim Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19141. Contact: Cleo Dupree, 215-329-521

Saturdays

Every Sat 1:30 pm

Special Teens (13 and older) Bowling at Bristol Pike Lanes, Croydon PA. To sign up contact: Harry Essling, 215-788-6383.

Saturday March 23, 2013 at 10:30 am Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities & The Deaf Apostolate invites you to attend the Annual Archdiocesan Celebration honoring the gifts of Persons with Disabilities, The Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers. For more information visit www.archphila.org or call Sr. Kathleen Schipani 215-587-3530 e-mail: srschipa@adphila.org

For more upcoming events and trainings go to: www.visionforequality.org and click on Events/Trainings



The Philadelphia Regional Conference on Developmental Disabilities

Celebrating the Past: Creating the Future

May 10th, 2013

3535 Market Street, 16th Floor

Keynote Speakers:

Kathy Sykes

Director of Intellectual disabilities Services in Philadelphia

Fred Lokuta

Deputy Secretary of Developmental Programs

To Register go to: www.philaddconference37.eventbrite.com



“I Feel...” Modern Technology and How it Can Help by Susan F Rzucidlo

Today Ben’s new assistive tech specialist came after having Ben’s iPad for a week to individualize it. We spent a large part of the session with her teaching me what she had done and working out a plan for the week for me to work on.

Then we brought Ben in and they poked around on it for about 10 minutes. She asked him some questions he has never been able answer himself, “How old are you?” “When’s your birthday?” She had the device set up to answer that for him and he did it!!! They worked a bit longer and you could tell he was getting tired of the process. Then she asked him “How do you feel?” He touched “I Feel” then “sad” (My heart just about broke) She asked “What do you want?” He said “Listen to Music” we said Go Listen to music. He was so happy when he left the table.

He has never been able to say anything even remote to letting us know that he was sad or happy. And the school district said that Ben would never be able to learn how to use assistive tech. HA!

I am so excited for what this may end up doing for Ben.

You know what else I realized, Ben no longer hits himself in the chest, something he was doing a lot of while he was in school. I just realized that when I was reviewing his records for IDD that he has stopped that behavior since he stopped being at school.

IDS Releases New Service Directory

Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) has released its new 2013 Directory of Services and Supports (the Green Book). The purpose of this comprehensive directory is to assist individuals with a disability, their families, and professionals to identify and use services and supports from the system, as well as identifying community resources and natural supports.

The Service Directory has lots of good information about the service system, including a description of IDS, a focus on Quality and on our Initiatives – Everyone Communicates, Employment 1st, and Lifesharing. There’s a section on making Community Connections, Advocacy and Support, and Health Care. Also included is a description of over 100 providers of Intellectual disAbility and Early Intervention Services, contact information for IDS and ODP Regional staff, and much more.

For a free copy, ask your supports coordinator, or, email jeffrey.orlin@phila.gov or call him at 215-685-5911



Take Your Legislator to Work

“Take Your Legislator to Work” featured a luncheon hosted by TGI Friday’s on City Avenue, a corporate partner of Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities Corporation (PDDC) which has hired three employees who received training at PDDC. Joyce Chatham, a kitchen prep employee at TGI Friday’s joined the legislators at the luncheon.

*Joyce Chatham (to the right) is joined here by Sharon Vaughn, representing Councilwoman Marian Tasco
photo by Bonnie Squires*

Beyond Tokenism Education Center

Nothing About Us Without Us

The vision of the Beyond Tokenism Education Center is for every disability organization to fully include self-advocates

on their Boards of Directors and committees as active and contributing members-not just tokens. Common sense says that people with disabilities should be included. "We are part of the community like all other people and we should be included in any Board that is in the community", says

Bill Krebs, a long time advocate for people with intellectual disabilities. The Beyond Tokenism Education Center is supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council and is an exciting initiative that will improve Board

The group has developed a toolbox for full participation and provides training to organizations with at least two members with disabilities on their Boards. They also promote self-advocates as Board members to organizations that do not have members with disabilities on them. You can find out more about



Beyond Tokenism; Mark Friedman, Bill Krebs, Lynette Savoy and Steve Dorsey sitting.

inclusion for self-advocates and for the organizations that include self-advocates on their Board.

Small goals were set to help self-advocates understand how to fully participate on Boards and in policy groups. Helping self-advocates become effective Board members involves discussing with the organizations how can they help self-advocates build confidence and speak up. Boards can ask self-advocates if they would like to bring a mentor to the meeting. Some Board members will take a self-advocate under his/her wing which increases success.

them by visiting www.beyondtokenism.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BeyondTokenism.

Department of Welfare Secretary is Leaving His Post

Gary Alexander

Pennsylvania's Secretary of Department of Public Welfare Gary Alexander is leaving to explore private-sector opportunities and to spend more time with his family. We wish Gary Alexander the best of luck. Congratulations to Beverly Mackereth who is the new Acting Secretary of DPW.



After 34 Years Kathy Sykes is Retiring!

Join us for Kathy Sykes Retirement Party at Knowlton Mansion on Thursday May 16th, 2013 at 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm. The cost is \$55 per guest and includes buffet, cash bar and a night of dancing.

In lieu of gifts Kathy is hoping you'll consider making a donation to either The Nancy Cordon Trust, The Got Mike! Fund, Visionary Voices | Leaders Lessons Legacy or the PA Waiting List Campaign. Make all checks payable to "Constance Falcone". Knowlton Mansion is located on 8001 Verree Road, Philadelphia PA 19111. For more information contact Jeffery Orlin at 215-685-5911 or jeffery.orlin@phila.gov

It's Time For a Name Change in Pennsylvania

Representative Murt

Representative Tom Murt (R-Montgomery) is introducing a bill that would change the name of the Department of Public Welfare to the Department of Human Services.

Representative Murt wrote an op-ed last November,

explaining why Department of Public Welfare needs a new name. In his article Representative Murt says: "Welfare does not describe what the department does or whom it serves. Pennsylvania is the only state in the country that still has a department called "Public Welfare." In fact, since last year's budget eliminated Cash Assistance, even less than 7 percent of Department of Public Welfare's budget is now spent on programs

that could be considered "welfare." When 93 percent of a department's budget is spent on human and health services, why in the world would we still call it "welfare"? The term is simply outdated and not accurate. It's like calling our Department of Education the Department of Busing." Many of the services the Department of Public Welfare provides enable thousands of Pennsylvanian's to work, create tens of thousands of jobs across Pennsylvania and supports individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism.

Here's what you can do right now to help:

Contact your legislator and ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor. If your legislators are already among the co-sponsors, please thank them.

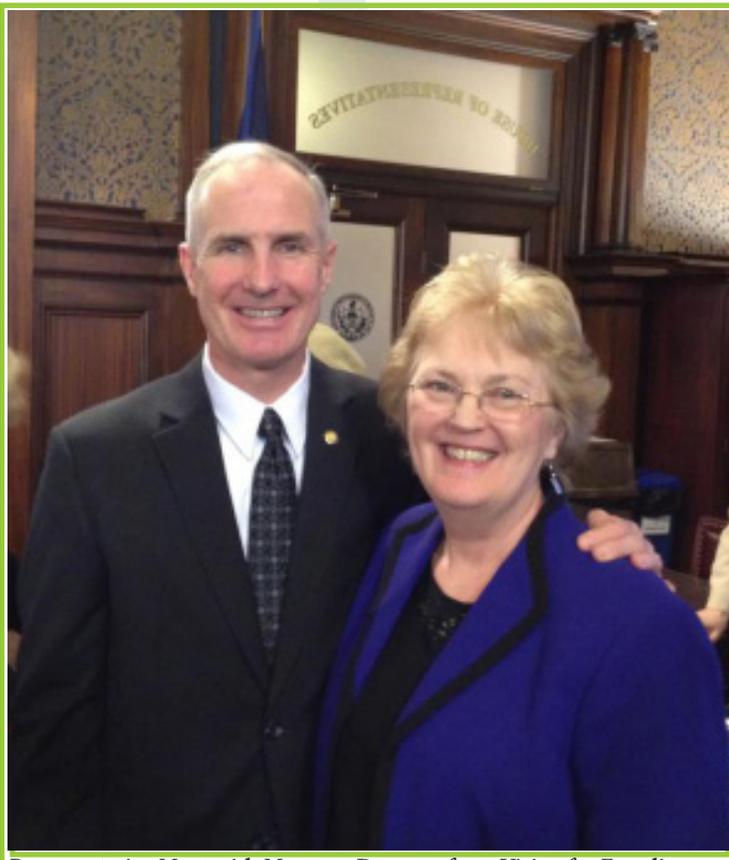
Sign the online petition from the Campaign for What Works and join the hundreds of Pennsylvania citizens that have already asked for a change.

Encourage your legislators to support the bill. If your legislator is a member of the Human Services Committee, please ask him or her to co-sponsor the bill, or vote in favor of it.

The Special Kids Network System of Care (SKN SOC)

Diane Perry

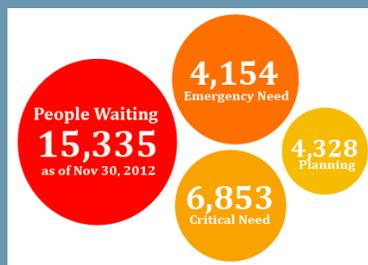
SKN SOC partners with the Elks Home Service Program and helps children and youth with special health care needs get the services and support they need to thrive and develop to their full potential. SKN SOC offers information and resources on health care, respite care, advocacy, assistive technology and more. Families can get the support they need to overcome the challenges of accessing services, education and employment, SKN SOC provides information about accessible and inclusive recreation for children and adults and information to help you and your community identify service gaps and address the unique challenges of your local service system. If your child has a physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional need, call us at 800-986-4550 or visit our website at: gotoskn.state.pa.us



Representative Murt with Maureen Devaney from Vision for Equality.



From The PA Waiting List Campaign



After the event at Vision for Equality in November, Governor Corbett sent out a Press Release saying: "To me, when we're talking about social welfare dollars that we have, they ought to be at the top of the pile, not halfway down or at the bottom," he said. "So we're beginning our effort to move them up and hopefully you're gonna see us able to put ... more money in there to reduce the waiting list."

We are going to be calling on you to continue the message of addressing the waiting list. We have 15,000 people who are just waiting for their lives to begin. We're counting on your help!

Winter Health- Layer it on!

By: Karen Boyce, PMHCC

The holidays are over, 2013 has begun, the nights are long, days are short and it is cold!! What can we do to keep ourselves and our families fit and healthy over the winter? Below are a few helpful tips which will allow you and your loved ones to do exactly that! Stay warm! Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems especially in the very young and elderly. Keep your home warm, keep yourselves dry, and dress in several layers of loose fitting clothing. **Accident Prevention!** Most residential fires occur during the winter months so make sure you keep candles away from children. If you do burn a candle don't leave it unattended, near pets, chairs and curtains. Check your smoke detector by testing it once a month and replace the batteries at the start of winter. Don't forget! Make sure you have an emergency kit all ready for use in case you do have a winter power outage. **Make healthy food choices!** Now that the holidays are over let's think balance and moderation! Include plenty of fresh

fruit and vegetables, cut right down on the fat and sugar. Try making some homemade vegetable soup! The whole family can join in, from chopping veggies to clean up time; it is healthy, fun and will make your home smell great! And don't forget to keep the added salt to a minimum on your food.

Sleep is important too! Try to make sure that you get the same amount of sleep each night. Get a good, stress-free evening routine going; a board game, reading or watching a family movie to wind down a busy day. When you do get up in the morning don't forget to start your day with a nutritious breakfast; no sugar cereal, skimmed milk, tea or coffee and a piece of fruit. **Vaccinate!** We are definitely in the flu season. If you have not been vaccinated it is not too late! Make an appointment with your doctor



and while you are there ask if there are any other screening or tests that you need to get done based on your age, lifestyle and family health history.

Stay physically active in the winter! Put on layers of clothing and go for a walk. You can make the walk more interesting if you bring the dog, or challenge your fellow walkers to a best winter photo pic on your phone. If you are looking for exercise to do in your house, dance to your favorite music and get everyone to join in! Vacuuming, sweeping and mopping are all aerobic exercises and you have no need to leave your home to do them! A good goal for kids and teens is to be active for at least one hour a day. **Safe travels!** Always wear a seat belt and a child seat that fits according to her/his height, weight and age.

Walk In Our Shoes Oasis

Join the Artists of Oasis (RHD) in mounting the event 'Shoe In'
Save the Date: March 23, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

This is an exhibition of social awareness and empathy designed to fiscally address the loss of state investment in IDD services. As such, proceeds from the Shoe In is a venue for investment in the IDD day programming and operational costs for the art /life skills students of Oasis (RHD).

Join us for a fun and inspiring event at **340 N. 12th Street, Suite 200, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.**

For more information, the latest news, and media resources, visit The Shoe In at Indiegogo home or contact Kaelynne Koval-Bauer at 215-629-0100.



Vision for Equality
718 Arch Street, 6N
Philadelphia PA, 19106



Karin Annerhed-Harris
718 Arch Street, 6N
Philadelphia PA, 19106



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